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BY THE WAY... with BILL HENRY

You probably wonder what the final seizure of despotic power by Khrushchev in Russia is going to mean to the world in general and to the United States in particular—so you're probably like to think, may we arrive at our official opinion.

WHAT NEXT?—Such as this is, of course, of the greatest importance. Maybe it means that, as another Hitler, Khrushchev will unleash a great world holocaust. It means, on the other hand, a tremendous internal struggle inside the Kremlin which will result in the collapse of the whole phony political structure of the Soviet Union. More likely, it means something somewhere in between these two. But with Russia controlling more manpower than any other nation, and in possession of the weapons with which to unleash the ultimate in destruction, any change in the top government is of vital consequence to the western free world. And the fact is, of course, that nobody really knows what it means. A serious, secretive Russia has long been, and remains, an enigma. We can't really know the answer. The best we can do is to make an educated guess. How do we go about it?

HOW?—Since there is no one source of solid information, chances are that Khrushchev himself won't quite know what he's going to do; he just has the power and decides later on what to do with it. The only one way to arrive at any sensible appraisal of the situation. We must collect information, in fact, opinion, rumor, guesswork from every available source and then turn this over to some central authority which, through lengthy experience and understanding, can give it a reasonably intelligent evaluation. The chances are that last week's mysterious White House meeting which included our absolute top military and diplomatic brass was giving consideration to just such an evaluation which had been made, and was being submitted, by the CIA.

WHAT IS THE CIA?—Those initials stand for Central Intelligence Agency and mean any such organization in the final analysis is personified in one man, CIA usually is regarded as the lengthened shadow of Allen Welsh Dulles, whose life vitally parallels that of his older brother, John Foster Dulles, but whose deliberate self-effacement is in sharp contrast to the nonstop though unsought publicity which surrounds the Secretary of State. Generally speaking, Allen Dulles is neither well nor widely known, but when any event such as this Kremlin upheaval, or the Suez invasion, or trouble in Sumatra takes place, the first man called to the White House to answer the question "What does this mean?" is Allen Dulles.

MACHINERY—Dulles himself is a wealthy Princetonian Phi Beta Kappa, wearing what is laughingly called "retirement age." He plays a strenuous game of tennis, golfs at around 90, loves to read Erle Stanley Gardner's legal mysteries and is as big physically and as seemingly indestructible as his more celebrated older brother. He thoroughly enjoys his job as head of a secret agency whose size, character and activities are known to only a handful of top people in Washington. He has his fingers touching every place in the world and in a matter such as this Khrushchev seizure of power his opinion is based on everything that could be learned from as diverse sources as spies and informants behind the Iron Curtain, possibly in the Kremlin itself, and owl-like looking Intelligence whistles. The State of Russia is confined to translating Soviet newspapers, periodicals and the like. No doubt, arriving at his conclusion, Dulles has given due weight to guesses by our Ambassador in Moscow, or by Ambassador Bohlen, now in Manila, who may have learned something leaking out of the Bamboo Curtain in Peking, and even to opinions that may have been given by such Johnny-come-lately and wacko experts as Mike Todd and Bob Hope—yet, after all what morsel of important information they have picked up. Dulles shakes all this assorted stuff together, comes up with an educated guess and says he's right.

MORI/CDF